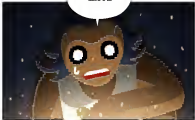




CRACKLE...

CRACKLE...

...SO...



YOU'RE
DOING THIS FOR
(THE LEGEND OF THE
DRAGON SWORD)...?

.....



WOW...
NO WONDER THE
MAIN CHARACTER
DOESN'T SEEM SANE.



WHEE~~~

NO.

WHEE~

THERE'S NO
WAY THIS WOULD
BE POSSIBLE UNLESS
IT WAS HIM.





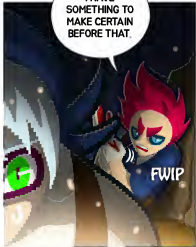
ANYWAY,
GO BACK TO
(THE LEGEND OF THE
DRAGON SWORD) THEN!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING
HERE?

HAHA...
WE'D LIKE TO,
BUT...

HE'LL THINK
WE'RE EVEN
WEIRDER IF WE SAY
WE'RE LOST.

I HAVE
SOMETHING TO
MAKE CERTAIN
BEFORE THAT.

FWIP



**MURDERING
A FORMER GUARDIAN.
POOR MANAGEMENT
OF TIGHTNESS. AS WELL AS
VARIOUS INJURING
ACT_**



**THESE ARE ALL
CRIMES THAT CANNOT
BE TAKEN LIGHTLY.**

UM...SIR...

THE
SAME GOES
FOR YOU.

HOW LONG DO
YOU THINK YOU CAN
ACT AS A GUARDIAN
BY PUTTING YOUR LIFE
ON THE LINE?

IF YOU KEEP DOING
WHATEVER YOU WANT.
I CAN'T LEAVE THIS
JOB TO YOU.



DOING WHAT
YOU WANT IS
IMPORTANT.

I TURNED AWAY
FROM THIS JOB
BECAUSE I HATED IT.
I ALSO SAW COUNTLESS PEOPLE
DABBLE IN IT AND
RUN AWAY.



BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT
THE ONE WHO WOULD
WANT TO DO THIS WOULD
BE MY OWN SON WHO
SAW EVERYTHING
CLOSELY...

BUT I...

NO,
EVEN I WAS
STOPPING MY SON
FROM DOING WHAT
HE WANTED.





I WILL NORMALIZE
(TIGHTNESS) IN ONE YEAR,
AND PASS IT ON.



YOU GUYS
DON'T WANT TO LET
THIS GAME FALL TO
RUIN EITHER,
RIGHT?

I WON'T
LEAVE MY SON AND
RUN AWAY.

IF YOU WANT
TO TAKE REVENGE,
OR ARREST ME AFTER THAT,
THAT'S UP TO YOU.

.....

HOW CAN
I TRUST THAT YOU
CAN NORMALIZE
IT?

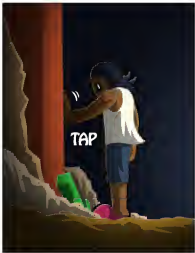


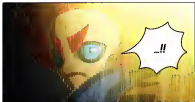
HEH...

I WANT TO
SAY YOU SHOULDN'T
QUESTION YOUR ELDERS,
BUT THAT'S A GOOD
QUESTION.

STEP

A cartoon illustration of a cave scene at night. A large, dark, shadowy figure is on the left, and a smaller figure with red hair and a blue shirt is on the right. A fire burns in the center. The word "STEP" is written in large white letters above the fire.





CRACKLE CRACKLE



CRACKLE CRACKLE

An illustration of a person standing at the base of a massive, ancient tree trunk. The person is looking up in awe. A speech bubble from the person says "WOAH...!!". The tree trunk is a deep brown color and has a large circular hole in the middle. The background is a dark, misty forest with colorful leaves (purple, blue, green, red) falling from the branches. The scene is lit with a warm, golden light from above.

WOAH...!!

DU N

_DON'T
FORGET.

I STILL
DON'T TRUST
YOU GUYS.



PRETENDING TO
BE INJURED...AND TRYING
TO USE UNDERHANDED
METHODS...

A character with bright red, spiky hair and a single visible blue eye. They are wearing a dark blue uniform with a small gold emblem on the chest. The character is looking down with a serious expression. The background is dark and indistinct.

YOU GUARDIANS
WERE ALWAYS LIKE THAT.
YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT
TO QUESTION OTHER
PEOPLE'S INTEGRITY.

IF YOU CAUSE ANOTHER
MESS WITHIN A YEAR,
THEN I WON'T JUST STAND
AND WATCH EITHER.





THEN
LET'S MAKE
A WRITTEN
PROMISE.

A WRITTEN
PROMISE?!

FWIP

THUD

THIS ISN'T
A COUPLE'S FIGHT!!
IF AN ADULT SAYS SO,
THEN HE MEANS
IT!!

THEN LET'S BE
ADULTS ABOUT IT,
AND WRITE IT.

BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH

IS IT
DONE THEN...? NO...
I DON'T KNOW...





THIS
PLACE IS
PRETTY
BIG!

TA DA

AND YOU'RE HERE!
UM...ARE YOU FEELING
WELL?

FLARE...

YEAH,
DON'T WORRY.

BUT
UNFORTUNATELY,
I CAN'T SEE THE STICK...
I GUESS IT WAS
ABSORBED INTO
MAIN BODY.

AH...I SEE...

AS
EXPECTED...

I-IT'S OKAY!
MR. PATCH HAS
THE DRAGON SWORD!
THERE WON'T BE ANY
PROBLEMS FROM
NOW!

PATCH...?

WHO'S
PATCH..?

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN..
AH..



I-I SEE..!
HE'S NEVER
ACTUALLY SEEN
HIM..!

AH! SAY HI!
THAT PERSON IS
ACTUALLY..!



GRAB





IF HE FINDS OUT
THE HOLY CITY PLAN
WAS DUE TO ME,
HE'LL HATE ME...

THIS ONE IS
EMOTIONAL AS WELL,
AND POSSESSES A
DANGEROUS ABILITY...



IF WE BUILD BONDS
NOW FOR NOT REASON,
IT WILL GET HARDER
TO CONTROL
THEM...



SO I
SHOULD
JUST...

I'M PATCH, THE GUARDIAN,
FROM THE CLASSIC GAME DEPT.
I'LL BE TAKING RESPONSIBLE
FOR TAKING THE HERO ALL
THE WAY TO THE ENDING.

RUSTLE

AH~
SO WE'RE GOING
TOGETHER..?

CLINK



**THEN LET'S
ALL HAVE A
DRINK!!**

ACK?!!

GLUG GLUG GLUG

**LET'S DO OUR BEST,
OKAY?!**

HE
SHOULDN'T
DRINK...

DRINK!
DRINK!

HEY...
YOU CAN'T JUST
DRINK THAT AT ONCE...
THAT'S THE LAST
ONE...



AH...
COME TO THINK OF IT,
WHEN I WENT TO
THE BASEMENT...





THE PADLOCK
WASNT UNLOCKED,
BUT BROKEN.



IF YOU
LOST THE KEY,
THEN I THOUGHT YOU
SHOULD GET ANOTHER
PADLOCK FROM
PATCH.

_SO
YOU DON'T
KNOW.

THAT'S
NOT IT,
IT'S...



WELL...
IF YOU GO NEXT DOOR
AND GET ME A DRINK,
I'LL TELL YOU.

CLINK

EH..?

THERE'S A BAR
NEARBY..?

WHAT'RE YOU
TALKING ABOUT..?
HOW CAN A GUARDIAN
NOT KNOW
THIS..?

THERE'S A
GUARDIAN'S BAR
RIGHT THERE!



NORMALLY, YOU
NEED TO WALK A LOT,
BUT I DUG A HOLE SO...AH,
BUT YOU CAN'T TELL
THE OWNER, OKAY?

TH...



**THERE'S A
GUARDIAN'S BAR
RIGHT THERE?!!**

**DUN
DUN!!**

THUD

**P-PATCH!! WE DID IT!!
I FOUND A WAY TO GET
BACK TO THE LEGEND OF
THE DRAGON SWORD!!
I KNOW A WAY!!**

**THAT CALLS
FOR ANOTHER
DRINK!!**

CHAMPAGNE!!

RUMBLE

**WE CAN GO BACK...!
WE CAN GO BACK!!**

**AH! I'LL
GET THE DRINK!
THE DRINK IS...!**

CLINK

... 'BASTARDS'

IT'S
'BASTARDS'.

BASTARDS
PALE ALE



„DON'T
DRINK FROM
TOMORROW.

„IF A
'GOOD SON' IS
LAUNCHED,
THEN I'LL THINK
ABOUT IT.

STAGE 101 - I WON'T FORGET THE ROOT -

now loading...